CLAIMS

<u>What is claimed is:</u>

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2   1.   In a server, a method of operation comprising:

3   accepting check in by a client computer at a first point in time to determine if

4   the client computer's software needs to be updated; and

5   providing the client computer with an update task list listing one or more tasks

6   to be performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points

7   in time to update the client computer's software, if it is determined that the client

8   computer's software is to be updated.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises determining if

2   the client computer's software needs to be updated.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by

2   the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3   the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a later point or

4   later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by

2   the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3   the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part servers at

4   a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by

2   the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3   the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be

4   performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon

5   asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises servicing one

2   or more subsequent asynchronous requests from the client computer for software

3   parts in accordance with the tasks listed the said task list.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein said servicing comprises asking the client

2   computer to retry one or more of the subsequent asynchronous requests for

3   software parts.

1   8.   In a client computer, a method of operation comprising:

2   periodically checking in with a server to determine if the client computer's

3   software needs to be updated;

4   receiving from the server an update task list listing one or more tasks to be

5   performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in

6   time to update the client computer's software, upon determining the client

7   computer's software needs to be updated; and

8   performing said one or more tasks asynchronously at a later point or later

9   points in time to update the client computer's software.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by

2   the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3   the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a later point or

4   later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1   10.   The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by

2   the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3   the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part servers at

4   a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1   11.   The method of claim 8, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed by

2   the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

3   the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be

4   performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon

5   asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

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1   12.   The method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises scheduling

2   asynchronous performance of said tasks.

1   13.   An apparatus comprising:

2   storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions

3   designed to accept check in by a client computer at a first point in time to determine

4   if the client computer's software needs to be updated, and to provide the client

5   computer with an update task list listing one or more tasks to be performed by the

6   client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update the

7   client computer's software, if it is determined that the client computer's software is to

8   be updated; and

9   at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the

10   programming instructions.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the programming instructions are further

2   designed to determine whether the client computer's software needs to be updated.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed

2   by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to

3   update the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a later

4   point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed

2   by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to

3   update the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third part

4   servers at a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said one or more tasks to be performed

2   by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to

3   update the client computer's software comprise one or more installation tasks to be

4   performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon

5   asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the programming instructions are further

2   designed to service one or more subsequent asynchronous requests from the client

3   computer for software parts in accordance with the tasks listed the said task list.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said programming instructions are further

2   designed to ask the client computer to retry one or more of the subsequent

3   asynchronous requests for software parts.

1   20.   A client computer comprising:

2   storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions

3   designed to periodically check in with a server to determine if the client computer's

4   software needs to be updated, to receive from the server an update task list listing

5   one or more tasks to be performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later

6   point or later points in time to update the client computer's software, upon

7   determining the client computer's software needs to be updated, and to perform said

8   one or more tasks asynchronously at a later point or later points in time to update

9   the client computer's software; and

10   at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the

11   programming instructions.

1   21.   The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be

2   performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in

3   time to update the client computer's software comprise re-contacting the server at a

4   later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software parts.

1   22.   The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be

2   performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in

3   time to update the client computer's software comprise contacting one or more third

4   part servers at a later point or later points in times to retrieve one or more software

5   parts.

1   23.   The client computer of claim 20, wherein said one or more tasks to be

2   performed by the client computer asynchronously at a later point or later points in

3   time to update the client computer's software comprise one or more installation

4   tasks to be performed asynchronously at a later point or later points in time upon

5   asynchronously obtaining one or more software parts.

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1   24.   The client computer of claim 20, wherein the programming instructions are

2   further designed to schedule asynchronous performance of said tasks.